(d) Prasar Bharati Act is already in force.

Failure of DD-Kashmir Channel

4481. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the DD-Kashmir channel launched on January, 26 with the objective of countering Pakistani media propaganda from across the border has failed to achieve its purpose;

(b) whether the channel, which is non-propagandist and aims at integrating the people of the State with the rest of the country, cannot be witnessed by a majority of people residing within a short radius and Srinagar Doordarshan employees had to work with risk to their lives; and

(c) if answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what stern measures are being taken in this regard within a time frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) No, Sir. The DD-Kashmir Channel has been launched to provide information, education and entertainment to the people of Kashmir.

(b) and (c) Prasar Bharati has intimated that the transmission of the Kashmir Channel is currently available on satellite as well as a low power transmitter. In order to boost the distribution of the signal, a high power transmitter has been installed in the valley. The same will be made operational soon.

Ministry of Home Affairs has been requested to make necessary arrangements for the security and safety of the DD/AIR personnel.

Revenue Earnings from Uplinking Right to Satellite Channels

4482. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the annual earnings of revenues from granting uplinking rights to Satellite television channels for 1998-99 and 1999-2000; and

(b) what steps are being taken to prevent the cultural invasion through uplinking of channels by cable operators and others in violation of the

code of ethics televising programmes involving obscenity, sex, crime and violence ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) The annual earnings of revenues from uplinking facilities to Satellite channels is as follows :

(i)	Annual earnings for the year 1998-99 :		
	(a)	Revenues earned by WPC Wing of Ministry of Communications	Rs. 1.3 Crore
	(b)	Revenues earned by Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL)	Rs. 7.00 Crore
		TOTAL :	Rs. 8.3 Crore
(ii)	Annaul earnings for the year 1999-2000		
	(a)	Revenues earned by WPC Wing of Ministry of Communications	Rs. 1.4 Crore
	(b)	Revenues earned by Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL)	Rs. 16.00 Crore
		TOTAL :	Rs. 17.4 Crore

(b) Prasar Bharati (Doordarshan) previews all its programmes before they are telecast to ensure that they are in accordance with its programme and advertisement codes and that they do not contain any excessive violence or vulgarity. India private satellite channels uplinked from within the country are also obliged to adhere to these codes of Prasar Bharati and in the event of violation, their licences can be cancelled. Encrypted TV channels uplinked from outside the country, when transmitted through cable television networks, are required to adhere to the programme and advertisement codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. The Central Government, as an exceptional measure, vide a notification issued under section 20 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 on 20-10-1999, prohibited the operation of cable television networks which were carrying the programme containing the foreign, satellite channels "TB-6" throughout the country, as it contained pornographic and obscene matters affecting public

morality. With a view to bring the foreign satellite channels within the ambit of Indian laws including programme codes and standards, Government proposes to enact a comprehensive law for, *interalia,* regulating private broadcasting in the country.

Cancellation of Regional Programmes from Trivandrum Doordarshan Kendra

4483. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any decision regarding cancellation of regional programmes from Trivandrum Doordarshan Kendra from 8 P.M. onwards;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRYOF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has intimated that in the changed Media scenario, the National Channel of Doordarshan has been restructured recently with a view to enlarge viewership and improve quality of Doordarshan programmes. In the process, the format of Hindi Samachar and English News has also been restructured with the increased durations. With the restructuring of news format and resultant scheduling of English News between 8.00 p.m. and 8.30 p.m., this time slot, earlier utilised by Regional Kendras on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, has been taken for national news. On remaining days, this slot was already with national network. However, keeping inview the regional aspirations, seven Regional Language Satellite Service channels, including Malayalam Channel, have been made round-the-clock and producers, technicians etc. of states would get more opportunities in the Regional Language Satellite Service.

Increase in Commerical Obscene Advertisements on TV Channels

4484. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that on all T.V. channels commercial obscene advertisements violating minimum ethical standards are increasing day-by-day without any check/control;